UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/951
S/1998/515
16 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 10, 81 and 111
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 11 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am directed to refer to your telephonic conversation of yesterday with the Prime Minister, and to your letter of 10 June 1998.

I would like to inform you that Pakistan has today officially proposed to the Government of India to resume the Pakistan-India dialogue.

A proposal to this effect was conveyed to the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad. We have also proposed that the Foreign Secretaries of our two countries give special attention and priority to issues of peace and security and Jammu and Kashmir. We have also indicated to India our readiness to arrive at mutually agreed measures for the avoidance of conflict, nuclear and conventional restraint and stabilization.

We trust that these proposals, which conform to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's earnest desire to pursue a substantive and result-oriented dialogue with India, will be reciprocated in full.

The Government of Pakistan has also today announced a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. We have expressed our readiness to formalize this arrangement, in the first instance, at the regional level, as an important confidence-building measure with India.

Copies of official statements issued by the Government of Pakistan, in this regard, are enclosed.

We deeply appreciate your efforts at encouraging a substantive and serious peace process between Pakistan and India, which would address all issues, including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir, in a just and equitable manner.

We look forward to your Personal Envoy's visit to Pakistan next week.

I should be grateful if the contents of the present letter were brought to the attention of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and circulated as documents of those organs.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Press statement issued on 11 June 1998 by the Government of Pakistan

On 30 May 1998, the Government of Pakistan had announced that the current series of nuclear tests had been completed. The tests that were conducted on 28 and 30 May 1998 were a natural response, to restore the strategic balance that had been altered by India's nuclear weaponization and subsequent provocative actions and statements against Pakistan.

The Government of Pakistan has repeatedly stated that it does not wish to enter into an arms race with India. Pakistan is making active efforts to ensure avoidance of conflict and to promote nuclear and conventional restraint and stabilization measures between Pakistan and India.

It is in this context that the Government of Pakistan has decided to announce a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. We are ready to engage constructively with India and other members of the international community to formalize this arrangement. In the first instance, we are ready to arrive at a no-nuclear-test agreement with India, as an important confidence-building measure at the regional level.

The Government of Pakistan expresses the hope that India will reciprocate and contribute towards creating a conducive regional environment by taking further effective steps to overcome the security crisis and promote durable peace and stability in South Asia.

ANNEX II

Press statement issued on 11 June 1998 by the Government of Pakistan

Pakistan's desire to engage constructively in a substantive and result-oriented dialogue with India has repeatedly been affirmed by the Prime Minister.

Accordingly, the Foreign Secretary, today, officially conveyed to the Indian High Commissioner Pakistan's proposal for resumption of Pakistan-India dialogue on the basis of the agreement reached on 23 June 1997 between the two sides.

Pakistan has proposed that, in view of the current situation, the two sides should address, on a priority basis, the issues of peace and security and Jammu and Kashmir in the resumed talks.

Pakistan has also proposed that, under the item pertaining to peace and security, special and urgent attention may be given to arriving at mutually agreed measures for the avoidance of conflict as well as promotion of nuclear and conventional restraint and stabilization measures.

Pakistan believes that simultaneously with the bilateral dialogue the international community will remain engaged with the comprehensive political process of stabilization of nuclearized South Asia and finding of a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, as promised by the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council in their joint communiqué issued at Geneva on 4 June 1998. The Security Council has also mandated the Secretary-General to remain engaged in these efforts. In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister on 10 June, the Secretary-General has offered to encourage and facilitate this process. Islamabad now awaits the visit to Pakistan of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy.